

Senate Amendment 3320

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1 1 Amend Senate File 383, as amended, passed, and
1 2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:
1 3 #1. By striking everything after the enacting
1 4 clause and inserting the following:
1 5 <Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 7,
1 6 unnumbered paragraph 5, Code 2003, is amended to read
1 7 as follows:
1 8 For the purpose of the rules adopted by the state
1 9 board, telecommunications means narrowcast
1 10 communications through systems that are directed
1 11 toward a narrowly defined audience, ~~and includes~~
1 12 interactive live communications, ~~and, until July 1,~~
1 13 ~~2005, includes internet web-based applications.~~
1 14 Sec. 2. Section 256.7, Code 2003, is amended by
1 15 adding the following new subsection:
1 16 NEW SUBSECTION. 26. Adopt rules establishing a
1 17 course catalog and a clearinghouse for courses offered
1 18 through internet web-based and Iowa communications
1 19 network applications. The rules shall establish
1 20 quality standards for internet web-based courses and
1 21 an approval process for nonprofit and private
1 22 providers of internet web-based courses. School
1 23 districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and area
1 24 education agencies are encouraged to meet the quality
1 25 standards. Nonprofit and private providers approved
1 26 by the department shall meet the quality standards.
1 27 Upon request and at no cost to the course provider,
1 28 the department shall include in the course catalog
1 29 those courses provided by a school district,
1 30 accredited nonpublic school, area education agency,
1 31 accredited higher education institution providing
1 32 courses under section 261C.4 or section 257.11,
1 33 subsection 3, accredited higher education institution
1 34 providing internet web-based advanced placement
1 35 courses, or any other provider approved by the
1 36 department. In addition, the rules shall allow the
1 37 department, if funds are available from a source other
1 38 than the general fund of the state, to act as a
1 39 clearinghouse to assist school districts and area
1 40 education agencies in the development of courseware,
1 41 provide preliminary information on the copyright of
1 42 courses developed, recommend appropriate course fees,
1 43 assist providers in securing appropriately licensed
1 44 teachers, and assist school districts and accredited
1 45 nonpublic schools in scheduling.
1 46 Sec. 3. VIRTUAL ACADEMY STUDY.
1 47 1. The department of education shall conduct a
1 48 study regarding the feasibility of establishing a
1 49 state-sponsored virtual academy for students in grades
1 50 seven through twelve. The study shall address
2 1 curriculum qualifications; scheduling; appropriate
2 2 licensure of individuals, other than teachers licensed
2 3 under chapter 272, to teach courses using internet
2 4 web-based and Iowa communications network
2 5 applications; responsibilities of the district or
2 6 accredited nonpublic school seeking to access courses
2 7 from the state-sponsored virtual academy; and the
2 8 conditions under which the department may grant a
2 9 waiver to permit a district to meet an accreditation
2 10 standard for kindergarten through grade twelve through
2 11 telecommunications. The study shall include a review
2 12 of other private and publicly sponsored virtual
2 13 academies. The study shall also include a five-year
2 14 implementation and fiscal estimate. The fiscal
2 15 estimate shall include operational costs of the
2 16 prospective state-sponsored virtual academy and any
2 17 potential impact on the general fund of the state
2 18 through the state school foundation program.
2 19 2. The director of the department shall convene a
2 20 group of education stakeholders who may provide input
2 21 into the study and its recommendations. The

2 22 stakeholders group shall include, at minimum, a
2 23 representative from a public and private accredited
2 24 postsecondary institution providing courses under
2 25 section 261C.4 or section 257.11, subsection 3; an
2 26 accredited higher education institution providing
2 27 internet web-based advanced placement courses; the
2 28 Iowa association of school boards; the school
2 29 administrators of Iowa; the Iowa state education
2 30 association; area education agencies; accredited
2 31 nonpublic schools; the board of educational examiners;
2 32 and others deemed appropriate by the department.
2 33 3. The department shall submit its findings and
2 34 recommendations in a report to the chairpersons and
2 35 ranking members of the senate and house standing
2 36 committees on education and the joint appropriations
2 37 subcommittee on education by December 15, 2003.>
2 38 #2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 4 and
2 39 inserting the following: <An Act relating to the use
2 40 of telecommunications as an instructional tool,
2 41 authorizing the state board of education to adopt
2 42 rules establishing a course catalog and a
2 43 clearinghouse for courses offered through internet
2 44 web-based and Iowa communications network
2 45 applications, and directing the department of
2 46 education to conduct a virtual academy study.>
2 47 SF 383.H
2 48 kh/es/25